

Meeting Minutes

Advisory Group: Legal Guardianship of a Minor by Court Petition

July 20, 2020, 1:00 to 3:00

(virtual meeting)

Meeting Attendees:

Amy Atkinson, Ana Beltran, Nannette Bowler, Del. Emily Brewer, Gayl Carr, Darcy Hubbard Cunningham, Derek Davis, Rachael Deane, Karen Dottore, Will Egen, Heidi Redlich Epstein, Sen. Barbara Favola, Leslie Frazier, Allison Gilbreath, Valerie L'Herrou, E.W. Marshall-Washington, Melissa O'Neill, James Pickral, Pat Popp, Kim Ramsey, Eric Reynolds, Sarah Smalls, Carla Taylor, Rebecca Vinroot

I. Welcome and Introductions

Delegate Brewer welcomed the Advisory Group and the public to the meeting and introduced Dr. Patricia Popp.

II. Navigating Access to Education for Students Not Living With Their Parents: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, Foster Care, and Guardianship

Patricia A. Popp, Ph.D., State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth & VDOE Educational Stability Liaison for Students in Foster Care, Project HOPE-Virginia, William & Mary School of Education

Dr. Popp began by reviewing the work of Project Hope. Her presentation discussed the pertinent legislation related to enrolling youth in school including McKinney-Vento, overlapping child welfare and education laws, and *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-3(A)(4)(iii). She highlighted the gaps in the current system that prevents some students from enrolling where they are currently living or remaining enrolled in their school of origin. Dr. Popp also reviewed recent survey data of school division McKinney-Vento liaisons.

This presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

III. Legal Custody and Guardianship in Virginia

Ana Beltran, JD, Special Advisor, Generations United
Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW, Director of Kinship Policy and Director of State Projects, ABA Center on Children and the Law

Delegate Brewer introduced Ana Beltran and Heidi Epstein. The presenters explained the work of the ABA Center on Children and the Law and Generations United. Additionally, they explained their work in Virginia. Their presentation also consisted of a

Kinship overview and an explanation of legal custody and guardianship in general as well as the laws specific to Virginia. Ms. Beltran and Ms. Epstein concluded this section by going over the missing elements of Virginia care and custody laws.

This presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

IV. Advisory Group Draft Recommendations Round Table Discussion

Delegate Brewer asked Will Egen from the Commission on Youth to go over the draft recommendations. Mr. Egen summarized the recommendations for the Advisory Group. Senator Favola expressed her desire to go forward with the limited guardianship recommendation but requested additional information about full guardianship at the next meeting.

Rebecca Vinroot from James City County local department of social services asked that the group consider the resources of local departments when mandating case management and family partnership meetings in any of these proposals.

Delegate Brewer stated that the group would carry all these conversations forward to the next meeting.

These draft recommendations can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

V. Next Steps and Adjournment

At the request of Senator Favola, staff will work on further explaining custody vs. guardianship and what the differences are for the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group will meet again at a future time and date (TBD) to review draft recommendations again that include more detail in places requested.

The meeting adjourned a few minutes before 2:10 p.m.

The video of this meeting can be found at the following link: [Meeting Video Archive](#).